

A NATIONAL DIALOGUE:

## The **Secretary** of **Education's Commission** on the **Future** of **Higher Education**

### PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

#### **Richard Kazis**

Senior Vice President  
Jobs for the Future

*"From the worlds of high school, college, workforce development, and alternative education, people acknowledge the need to stanch the leakage of young people out of our educational institutions. Double the Numbers is a call to action—to reach across traditional boundaries and significantly narrow the inequities in college and career success between higher-income and lower-income Americans, between white and minority students."*

Richard Kazis leads Jobs for the Future's policy and research efforts. In the early 1990s, he directed the organization's initial multi-site initiative on school-to-career models. Since then, he has led projects on: local organizations that link schools and employers; community colleges and low income populations; policies to promote low-wage worker advancement; and the emerging role of labor market intermediaries in workforce development.

Mr. Kazis directs JFF's contributions to *Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count*. JFF is one of ten national partners in *Achieving the Dream*, a national initiative that promotes change to improve student success at community colleges. The initiative works on multiple fronts—including efforts at community colleges and in research, public engagement and public policy—and emphasizes the use of data to drive change. *Achieving the Dream* is funded by Lumina Foundation for Education, KnowledgeWorks Foundation and the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. JFF coordinates the initiative's effort to improve state policies in five targeted states.

Mr. Kazis also directs JFF's *Double the Numbers* initiative. *Double the Numbers* is designed to advance state and national policies that can significantly increase the number of young people who make it to and through college. The initiative identifies, assesses, and promotes new and promising approaches to increasing efficiencies and reducing inequities in the attainment of secondary and postsecondary education credentials.

Richard Kazis is a former teacher at an alternative high school for returning dropouts. He has also supervised a Neighborhood Youth Corps program, helped organize fast food workers, managed a cooperative urban food production wholesaler, built labor-environmental coalitions around jobs, and studied informal, experiential learning in Israel. He is President of the Board of the Brookline Education Foundation. Mr. Kazis is a graduate of Harvard College and M.I.T.